

VOLUNTEER VIBE

Shawnee National Forest

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SAFETY CORNER...



1. Remember to call in to Kelly (618-559-8648) when beginning and ending your volunteer service for the day. Safety is the #1 priority of the volunteer program.

2. Always check weather conditions before the trip. Be prepared and pack a survival kit to be carried by each person. Kits should include but not limited to, survival blanket, water proof matches, extra water, and food.

3. Watch out for warning signs of hypothermia. Symptoms begin with feeling cold, experiencing pain in extremities and shivering as the body tries to raise its temperature.

4. Remember when volunteering it is also extremely important to wear proper PPE (personal protection equipment) at all times. Hardhats are a must, and gloves go a long way to protect hands. Sturdy shoes and well-worn jeans, along with layers to keep you warm and can be removed if necessary.

A Farewell, for Now...



What can I say? It has probably been the fastest and best 3 years of my life, and now my time here is coming to a close. Way back in August of 2008, I moved from the big, scary city of Chicago to a quaint little town in the woods known as Carbondale. Here, I was to experience what has been an eye-opening, self-fulfilling journey away from home, leading me back unto my true self. On the fateful day of Saturday, September 27, 2008, I left my closet sized studio apartment feeling that this wasn't just any other day. I picked up a shy suburban girl from SIU, who I had just met, and would soon become the love of my life, and headed to our first Shawnee Volunteer Corps workday, and let me tell you, I've been at it ever since!

After finding a constructive way to nurture my love for the American outdoors, I was set onto a path of self-discovery. Weekend after weekend, I would come to workdays to learn, relax, and mostly to find refuge from the push and pull of modern day-to-day living. By early spring of 2009, I had received crosscut saw and first-aid training as well as discovering a plethora of new information about the woods, trails, ecosystems, and the world as a whole. That is when Kelly then told me about the summer trail crews, "could this be real?" I thought, "could I be one of them? The U.S. Forest service?" and, yes, I could, and I did. Through a harder-than-life first summer, packing grueling heat, poison ivy, and 100 miles of derecho-laden trails to clear, I persevered and succeeded, thanks to family, friends and great leadership. Over the next 2 years, I continued my work here with the Shawnee and elsewhere, as my appetite for success and knowledge grew steadily stronger.

Now, I tell my story, recently graduated from SIUC's forestry program, 2 days from the end of my current career at the forest service, and my time here in southern Illinois and I reflect. I wonder how an aspiring engineer on the run from the big city, came to be me, or rather, if I had been me all along? Some things I may never know, but what I do know is that thanks to the great people here at the Shawnee National Forest as well as all of the FANTASTIC people I have met from the surrounding communities and across the nation, I have become a better human being from my experiences, and can only hope that I may carry on what has started here and use it to help those who have not been blessed, as I have, with this great, uplifting experience. To all I have met along the way, and all I've yet to encounter, God speed.

Russell R. Cerocke



Kelly's Korner

Hello. I just wanted to share with everyone, again, the rights you have as volunteers.

Volunteer Rights

- **The Right To Be Treated With Respect**
- **The Right To Be Free Of Harassment**
- **The Right To A Suitable Assignment**
- **The Right To Training**
- **The Right To Qualified Supervision**
- **The Right To Safe Working Conditions**

Thanks for all you do and I'll see you on the trail.

Shout Out!



Hey Trail Stewards! This issue's shout out goes to Laurel Mabry, Kaia Pirazzini, Gina Oppen, James Naughton, Michael and Kathrin Birchler and Jared Blanford. This outstanding group recently completed the Trail Steward Boot Camp on September 17th and 18th. They learned the basics of trail construction and got a chance to put their skills to work at Panther Den Wilderness. This group is dedicated, talented and a lot of fun to work with!



Celebrate Forests. Celebrate Life.

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 the **International Year of Forests**. In its resolution, the UN recognized "that forests and sustainable forest management can contribute significantly to **sustainable development, poverty eradication and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals**." It further emphasized "the need for **sustainable management of all types of forests, including fragile forest ecosystems**"

According to United Nations data:

- Forests cover 31% of land area.
- The livelihoods of over 1.6 billion people depend on forests.
- Forests are home to 80% of our terrestrial biodiversity.
- Trade in forests was estimated at \$327 billion in 2004.
- Forests are home to 300 million people around the world.

The US celebration is taking on the theme "Celebrate Forests. Celebrate Life." It is being sponsored by the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. The national celebration is focusing on four major benefits of forests.

Clean Air and Water: Forests take carbon dioxide out of the air while releasing oxygen and they filter water before it enters our lakes and streams.

Ecosystem Health: Total forest acreage has remained steady in the US during the last century. Over 75 million acres of forest have been reserved for non timber uses, including wildlife habitat and recreation.

Economic Health: Forest products produced in the US each year are valued at about \$175 billion. This industry provides around 900,000 jobs.

Community/Personal Health: Trees planted in cities provide shade and reduce heating and cooling costs. They beautify urban areas and increase property values. Trees provide a necessary buffer of "green space" between humans and wildlife and provide space for outdoor recreation

source: United Nations website:
www.un.org/en/events/ifof2011

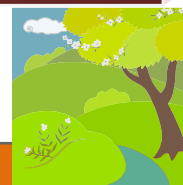


**INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS • 2011**

For more information, visit
the IYF official website at:
www.celebrateforests.com



LOOK AROUND



Autumn in Southern Illinois Some things to look for!

September



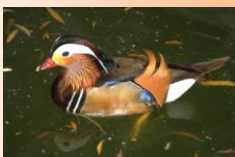
Monarch Butterfly Migration

First Canada Geese arrive



22nd: Autumnal Equinox

October



Dabbling Ducks migrate through Southern Illinois

19th Autumn colors peaking

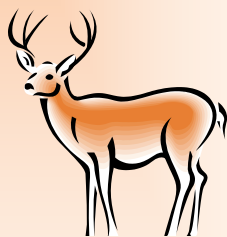


November



Look for Bittersweet along roadsides

7th White tail deer begin rutting



Winter raptors becoming more visible (harriers, hawks, eagles)



Source: National Events Calendar, Events Consultation by Todd Fink

Celebrating the Weeks Act

If you enjoy hunting, hiking, camping or riding the trails in the Shawnee National Forest you have Mr. Weeks to thank. At the turn of the century, many individuals and groups were concerned about the loss of forest resources in the eastern U.S.. John

Wingate Weeks, a Republican congressman from Massachusetts, was able to convince lawmakers, including the gruff Speaker of the House Joseph Cannon, that protecting forest was in the nation's best interest. Weeks argued that erosion from logging affected rivers and watersheds, and that the lack of navigable waterways would threaten both the flow of commerce and national security. Eventually the Weeks Act permitted the government to purchase "forested, cut-over, or denuded lands within the watersheds of navigable streams..." deemed "necessary for the regulation of their flow." The 1911 Weeks Act made it possible to create national forests in both the eastern and southern states. *(taken from: A Century of Conservation: A Centennial Celebration of the Weeks Act)*



RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District 2011 Fall Work Days

October 1-Panther Den Wilderness

October 8-Millstone Bluff

October 15-Millstone Bluff

October 22-Panther Den Wilderness

October 29-Panther Den Wilderness

November 5-Panther Den Wilderness

We will be meeting at Evergreen Park in Carbondale for all workdays. Please arrive between 9:30 and 9:45 to fill out paperwork. As always, wear long pants and sturdy shoes and bring a lunch, water bottle and gloves (if you have them).



Volunteers are needed for this event, which is sponsored by the Shawnee National Forest. The Expo takes place on October 22 at Dixon Springs Ag Center in beautiful Pope County. It's a one of a kind event for sharing ideas, resources and information with individuals, businesses and communities to promote self-reliance and sustainability at the individual and community level within the entire Southern Illinois region. Please visit the Expo website (<http://www.SLEexpo.org>) where you can find out all the details for the event, as well as complete on online Volunteer Registration Form (or download a form to mail in).



Call for Volunteers!

Seeking volunteers to assist in staffing "Critter Night", a program designed to educate the public about the nocturnal animals of Southern Illinois. The program is on Oct 14th, 2011 at the Lincoln Memorial Picnic Grounds in Jonesboro, IL from 5-7pm. No education experience or specific knowledge necessary – there is a variety of staffing needs! **If you are interested, please call Linda Hauser at 618-833-8576 for more details.**

SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

Oct 16. Leave Murphysboro ranger station 9am or 9:40 Chester Popeye statue. Our first hike is my favorite trail in Pickle Springs Natural Area where we have a double arch, slot canyons, distant views, rock canyons, strange rock formations. Next we go to Hickory Canyon Conservation area with its base trail looking up at 100 ft cliff walls.

Nov 13. Leave Murdale shopping Ctr sign 10am or 10:30 in Marion at former Wal-Mart shopping ctr parking lot. We travel to Secret Canyon in Lusk Creek Wilderness. This serpentine trail affords a different cliff line with each turn in the trail, as well as a huge shelter bluff. We may walk the rim of Hayes Canyon afterwards.

Dec 11. Leave 12:30 Murphysboro ranger station or 1:10 at the gas station lot in Jonesboro. We will travel to South Atwood ridge and ascend the old service road to the top while enjoying views above the timberline.

Non-members are welcome. Free. **You must register by phone with Bob Tyson at 684-5643**



Remember to turn in your hours to Kelly!



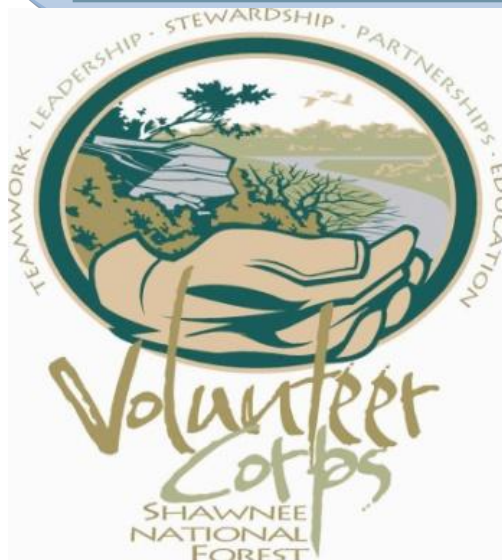
From the Editor...

Hello volunteers! My name is Mark Blean and I am the new Americorps VISTA assigned to help with the Shawnee Volunteer Corps. Although I have lived in Southern Illinois for 5 years now, I grew up in Northwestern Illinois near the Quad City area. Let's just say the landscape looks a lot different up there! I was raised on a farm, so naturally hunting and fishing gave me an appreciation for the outdoors. When I grew older and went away to a university in Iowa, I lost that connection to the land and began to grow restless. I knew I needed a change of direction, as well as a change of scenery, so I moved to Carbondale and earned my degree in Forestry (recreation management) from SIU in 2009. Since graduation, I have gained experience in just about every area of forest management. I have cut and planted trees, cleared and built trails, burned forestlands, treated invasive plant species and conducted forest inventories. As an Americorps VISTA, it is now my job to assist with the expansion of the volunteer program on the Shawnee. I am looking forward to working with all the dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers that are already doing great work in the woods, as well assisting those folks who are getting their hands dirty for the first time. Remember that I am a volunteer as well, and I wouldn't be doing this work if I didn't love it.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER?

Email us or drop off your story or article and it could be included in the next Volunteer Vibe



CONTACT US

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**Teamwork, Leadership, Stewardship,
Partnership, Education**

www.fs.fed.us/r9/forest/shawnee

